

I had a 15-minute interview with a reporter from USA Today and, unfortunately, she took two words that I said. I said, yes, JOHN DINGELL is a wonderful man. She said, well, I hear he's pretty tough. I said, he can be sometimes gruff and intimidating. He has intimidated me sometimes. But the vast majority of my comments were about his caring for his fellow human beings, his love for Debbie, and indeed the love and respect and honor that he gives to every one of his colleagues, realizing that they too have been chosen by their constituents to serve in this people's House. The people's House is a greater place, this country is a greater country, the people are a richer people because of the service of JOHN DINGELL.

God bless you, JOHN DINGELL, and thank you.

#### TRIBUTE TO A COLLEAGUE, THE HONORABLE JOHN DINGELL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise too, along with all my colleagues, to congratulate our dear friend, JOHN DINGELL, on his 50 years of service as a Member of the United States House of Representatives. Today, we honor not only his work in this Congress but also his lifetime of service to his community and to his country.

Born July 8, 1926, JOHN DINGELL served as a page in this institution, served as a soldier in the United States Army, a forest ranger, and assistant Wayne County prosecutor before replacing his father as Representative from Michigan's 15th Congressional District on December 13, 1955, 50 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to insert into the RECORD at this point a Certificate of Proclamation from the Governor of our great State making this day Congressman JOHN D. DINGELL Day, as signed by the Governor:

#### STATE OF MICHIGAN CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION

On behalf of the citizens of Michigan, I, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm hereby proclaim December 13, 2005, as Congressman John D. Dingell Day.

Whereas, For five decades, Congressman John D. Dingell has worked tirelessly for the citizens of Michigan, working for the things that matter most, including a strong manufacturing economy, good paying jobs, a clean environment, and healthcare for every citizen; and,

Whereas, In celebrating his 50th anniversary in Congress, Congressman Dingell is now the third longest serving House member in history; and,

Whereas, Over the course of his 50 years in Congress, Congressman Dingell has cast more than 21,800 roll call votes, served under 10 presidents, and led the House Energy and Commerce Committee; and,

Whereas, Together, Congressman Dingell and his father have represented the citizens of the Detroit area since the Great Depression, a testament to the hard work and dedication the Dingell family has in representing

and advocating for the working people of Southeast Michigan; and now therefore be it,

*Resolved*, That I, Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim December 13, 2005, as Congressman John D. Dingell Day in Michigan. I thank Congressman Dingell for being a man of integrity, a man of the people; and most of all, I thank him for his extraordinary commitment and service to the citizens of the great State of Michigan.

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM,  
Governor.

Mr. DINGELL is not only a dear friend; he is an avid hunter and an outdoorsman. And maybe that is why he is such a straight shooter. In my 14 years serving on the Energy and Commerce Committee, I have found that it is far better to have him on your side than having him as an adversary. But when he is, you have to beat him on the merits. Otherwise, you lose.

He has served as an expert on so many subjects that this Congress has dealt with, from telecommunications, to health care, to trade, to energy, and even little things called the Tucker Act. He may be the only Member that really knows the history of that act, which means a lot in the history of this Congress.

He shares with all of us the drive to go after fraud and abuse. In fact, I think it was my very first subcommittee meeting when he was chairman of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, and we were grilling a guy by the name of President Kennedy. No, that is not John F. Kennedy, that was President Kennedy, the former President of Stanford, and the abuse that that university did with taxpayer money.

Mr. Speaker, the current chairman, Mr. BARTON of the Energy and Commerce Committee, recently remarked at the wonderful tribute for JOHN DINGELL, that he thought that most historians would put this gentleman, Mr. DINGELL, in the top ten of all the Members, Republicans and Democrats, that have ever served in this body. I would agree with Mr. BARTON's assessment. It is a lot of Members, a lot of years, and we are fortunate to have someone of Mr. DINGELL's caliber for the years I have served.

For some 50 years, the gentleman from Michigan can be proud, so proud knowing that he indeed made a difference for his country on the field of battle in the Army, but also in the Halls of Congress as a most distinguished and very respected Member.

He is also a Wolverine. That means he represents the University of Michigan, another proud institution, and he has always looked out for the interest of education as well in this body, whether he served on the Education Committee or not.

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Mr. Speaker, I join with all of the House in recognizing a wonderful friend, a dear colleague, a great husband, and I know Debbie is here someplace watching; and I simply say, well

done. Many of us look forward to serving with you for a long time yet to come, as you continue to make a difference for the people of southeast Michigan, and all of the people that live in this great country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MEEHAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MEEHAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### PROTECTING FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHT OF MILITARY CHAPLAINS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, before I start my remarks, I want to pay respect and gratitude to the gentleman from Michigan who served with my father for a number of years, and also has been a friend to me.

Mr. DINGELL, you are an example of what is good about the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, in my remaining time, I want to speak about a serious problem in my opinion, and that is the fact that chaplains in the American military, those who happen to be of the Christian faith, have been told they cannot use the name Jesus Christ when they pray outside of the church.

Mr. Speaker, I would be on this floor tonight if this were a Jewish rabbi or if it were a Muslim chaplain in the United States military.

Mr. Speaker, 72 Members of the House have sent a letter to the President. This is the first sentence, "Mr. President, we are disappointed and gravely concerned to learn that the Christian military chaplains are under direct attack and that their right to pray according to their faith is in jeopardy."

Mr. Speaker, I spoke to a Navy chaplain, and in the last 3 years, I have talked to hundreds of chaplains who have conveyed to me the fact that they are being told outside of their church they cannot pray their faith, and I think this is a tragedy, particularly in our military.

About 10 months ago I spoke to a Navy chaplain in Hawaii who told me he is a Methodist. He told me "Congressman, let me tell you what happened. I was praying at a service to remember Marines who were killed in Afghanistan and Iraq. When I finished my prayer, I prayed in the name of Jesus Christ, our savior."

Mr. Speaker, he told me, about an hour and 15 minutes later, he got a call from a Marine major who reminded him, in those kind of settings, you cannot pray in the name of Jesus Christ, and please in the future do not do so.

He was so upset, Mr. Speaker, he went to a friend of his who happens to